

The public air ways belong to the people of the United States, not to specific companies or political parties. It is the responsibility of the FCC to protect the airways from abuse and to see that they are used to inform the American people so that they can make informed decisions. Infotainment and blatant political bias have been masquerading as news. This cannot continue. Through your authority over the use of the airways, you must set an example that leads the way to accurate and responsible broadcasting.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Local citizens throughout the United States are becoming concerned that the FCC is not fulfilling its responsibilities in controlling media corporations and that it will become necessary to launch more local stations as an alternative for honest representation.

Thank you.